

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
BOARD MEETING
Friday, March 20, 2009

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) met at 9:00 a.m. at the offices of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Room 507, of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi, on Friday, March 20, 2009.

Members present: Mr. George Walker, Mr. Napoleon Moore, Mrs. Patricia Dickens, Mr. Ed Perry, Mr. Max Huey, and Mr. Bubba Hudspeth. *Members not present: Mr. Bobby Steinriede, Mr. Chip Crane, Mr. Bruce Martin and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.*

SBCJC Staff in attendance: Dr. Eric Clark, Mrs. Mitzy Johnson, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Dr. Debra West, Dr. Fiona Qualls, Dr. Larry Day, Mr. Ray Smith, and Mrs. Missy Saxton.

Guests in attendance: Mr. Chuck Rubisoff, Office of the Attorney General; Dr. Reggie Sykes, Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL); Dr. Willis Lott, MS Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC); Ms. Beverly Jeffries, Ms. Edna Higgins, and Ms. Kathy Kohlar all of Virginia College.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and provided the meeting notice for the April 16th and 17th meetings. The State Board for Community & Junior Colleges Committee-of-the-Whole meeting will be held April 16, 2009, at Huntington's Grille in Jackson at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will reconvene at the Hilton Hotel Hattiesburg Room at 7:30. The Board Meeting will be held on April 17, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 507 of the Education & Research Building.

PRELIMINARIES

Mr. Bubba Hudspeth gave the invocation.

Approval of February 19 and 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes

In a motion made by Mr. George Walker and seconded by Mrs. Patricia Dickens, the SBCJC board **voted unanimously** to approve the minutes of the February 19 and 20, 2009, SBCJC Board Meetings.

Approval of Agenda

In a motion made by Mr. Bubba Hudspeth and seconded by Mr. Max Huey, the SBCJC board **voted unanimously** for approval of the day's agenda, as amended to include discussion regarding the proposed SBCJC headquarters building under Dr. Clark's report.

REPORTS/ACTION

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Clark greeted the Board Members and welcomed them to the meeting. He reported that he had attended the HEADWAE luncheon, the MACJC Capitol Day and the Legislative Luncheon. He has spent a lot of time at the Legislature on behalf of the colleges, as well as being involved with discussions and conference calls regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Dr. Clark reported on the progress of the proposed SBCJC headquarters building and provided drawings by Eley, Guild and Hardy Architecture Group (EGHA). The House and Senate have passed the land authority bill which is in conference. He talked with David Anderson of DFA and the survey of the land has been completed.

In terms of financing for the proposed headquarters building, the MACJC agreed that a cost of up to \$12 million dollars would go towards the building. Any funds remaining in the bond bill would go to the colleges for repair and renovation. The Senate was not prepared to fully fund our building in the bond bill. On the Senate side, HB 1722 provided a \$2 million line item for our building and an additional \$4 million for construction, repair and renovation on the campuses. Mr. Anderson with DFA advised that \$2 million would help us accomplish the preliminary work needed on the building and would also keep the legislators invested in the project to see it through to completion.

Dr. Clark feels that the approved feasibility study by EGHA is progressing nicely. EGHA staff has provided two color sketches, which Dr. Clark shared with the Board Members. It positions the proposed building facing south. The staff Headquarters Building Committee met with EGHA staff and discussed proposed spacing needs. Dr. Clark advised that to-date, there are no funds for new construction in the stimulus bill. He is very happy with the progress that has been made on the proposed building.

Mrs. Patricia Dickens asked if a scanned copy could be provided to each board member, as well as be provided in the letters to our congressional delegation.

SBCJC Staff has identified several areas in the stimulus package that should apply to community colleges and has prepared a worksheet regarding those areas (Exhibit E). Dr. Clark promises that our agency will continue to be aggressive in continuing to look for funds that will possibly apply to the CJC system.

Dr. Clark reported that Dr. Willis Lott has requested from the Hanover Group, an update on a study that was completed in 2002 on the benefits to local communities of a community college education.

Dr. Clark is going to write a guest editorial column for *The Clarion Ledger* to help raise visibility of the CJC issues of workforce education and job training and to also let the public know how the CJC system can successfully fight back against recession. He will also work on the letters to our Congressional delegation. Signatures of the board members will be attached to the letters to Mississippi's congressmen after the board approves the letter.

Dr. Debra West, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert and Dr. Clark met with Mrs. Marie Sanderson of the Governor's office to discuss the ARRA. Mrs. Sanderson advised that one thing that she knows about the ARRA is that a lot of that money is going to be used to restore cuts that were made to this year's budget. In a related meeting at MDE, Dr. Bounds asked for a group to be creative in working on competitive grants. Dr. Clark asked Dr. West to be on the task force to work on competitive grants.

Dr. Clark concluded his report.

MACJC Report

Dr. Willis Lott began by saying he was excited about hosting the SBCJC Board Members and Staff for the May MGCCC graduation ceremony and the May SBCJC Board Meeting.

He reported that the MACJC Association is very excited about the possibility of SBCJC having our own headquarters building. The presidents recognize the importance of having our own identity. The American Community College Trustee Association (ACCT) is having their Governance Leadership workshop in Biloxi in April. Dr. Lott said he is hopeful that he will soon begin seeking input from our Board members regarding the development of the strategic plan in the next few months. Dr. Lott and Deborah Gilbert attended the Joint Legislative Budget committee meeting where the revenue estimates for FY 09 and FY 10 were revised. Dr. Lott is concerned that most community colleges in Mississippi will have to raise tuition next year, due to economic conditions. He wanted to alert the SBCJC Board Members to this possibility. The federal Pell Grants were increased and are now called an "entitlement program" by the federal government, meaning they will automatically be fully funded in the future. He stated that although tuition is likely to increase, as well as operating costs, the MS community colleges will still be affordable.

Dr. Lott informed the board members about "Pick-a-Prof", a company that tries to find out the grade distribution for the teacher at each college. The company then sells that information to students so the students can then take the easiest teachers. The MACJC will talk about this at their next meeting. What the Association is worried about is the pressure on their faculty to begin to give easier grades. The MACJC may ask for an attorney general's opinion. The presidents really do not want to provide the information, but they want to make sure they are not breaking the law by not providing it.

He commended Dr. Clark and his staff for being aggressive and organized in working with the Legislature. He suggests that we change the way our message for funding comes across. It may take two to three years, but we must be aggressive in pursuing a fully funded Mid-Level Funding.

Career Technical Education

Dr. Debra West presented **Exhibit A1**, which is a request for approval of the Preliminary Accreditation Status for Practical Nursing at Virginia College.

In a motion by Mrs. Patricia Dickens and seconded by Mr. Napoleon Moore, the SBCJC

Board **voted unanimously** to approve the Preliminary Accreditation Status for Practical Nursing at Virginia College.

Exhibit A2 is the approval request of a New Program in Diesel Equipment Technology at Jones County Junior College.

In a motion by Mr. Max Huey and seconded by Mr. Napoleon Moore, the SBCJC Board **voted unanimously** to approve the New Program in Diesel Equipment Technology at Jones County Junior College.

Exhibit A3 is the approval request for a New Certificate Option in Industrial Maintenance at Meridian Community College. **Exhibit A4** is a request for a New Program in Welding and Cutting, also at Meridian Community College.

In a motion by Mr. Napoleon Moore and seconded by Mr. Max Huey, the SBCJC Board **voted unanimously** to approve both requests, the New Certificate Option in Industrial Maintenance, as well as the New Program in Welding and Cutting at Meridian Community College.

Workforce Report

Exhibit B1 is the standard Workforce report. This is for information only. **Exhibit B2** is the Comparison of Workforce Enhancement Training (WET) funds from FY 08 to FY 09.

Grants and Related Activities Report

Dr. West presented the Grants report, **Exhibit C1**. This is the standard Grants report information, including all grants issued. **Exhibit C2** is the 2008 Career Readiness Certificates (CRC) issued and **Exhibit C3** is the 2009 to-date CRC's issued. Dr. West concluded her report.

College Outreach Report

Dr. Larry Day provided the College Outreach report. He has attended several community college subcommittee meetings regarding the African-American Male Initiative. These meetings are hosted by IHL. He and Dr. Reggie Sykes hope to present final findings to the SBCJC board, MACJC members, and the IHL Trustees in May.

Dr. Day will serve as a panel member at an event held by the St. Louise Federal Reserve Bank in Memphis on March 25th. The topic will be the role that community colleges play in upward economic mobility.

Mr. Walker recessed the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Program Report

Dr. Fiona Qualls presented **Exhibit D1** which is the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration (CPSCR) report. This is for informational purposes only.

Exhibit D2 is the approval request of the SBCJC recommendation for the 2009 Nissan Scholarship Selection Committee. The persons recommended by SBCJC staff are Dr. Beverly Clark of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and Dr. Charlie Barnett of Northeast Mississippi Community College.

In a motion by Mrs. Patricia Dickens and seconded by Mr. Max Huey, the SBCJC Board **voted unanimously** to approve the SBCJC recommendation for the 2009 Nissan Scholarship Selection Committee.

Dr. Qualls further reported that the Uniform Course Numbering system is being updated and this is for academic courses only. Also, the Articulation Agreement is in fine shape and has been placed on the IHL and SBCJC websites.

The ACT is turning 50 years-old this year and Dr. Qualls reported that Dr. Shawn Mackey represented the agency well at the ACT Summit in Jackson, held in early March. At the ACT Summit, the issue of Dual Enrollment and Dual Credit was a large issue and the next ACT Summit meeting will focus on these topics.

Technology Report

Mr. Ray Smith reported that we should be seeing short-term and long-term gains in the technology area. At the last Information Technology Directors meeting, it was requested by the group for Mr. Smith to meet with Dr. Clark and suggest that the group be reorganized. This reorganization would allow the college presidents to reappoint a person who would have a direct line of communication with the president. At this point, reorganization has been done and the presidents have reappointed personnel to a new council, called the Strategic Technology Council. The Technology Operations Council still exists and this group is comprised of personnel from colleges who work on a front-line level with technology. Best practices will be discussed in this second group as well as what is required to keep the colleges' systems up and running smoothly. The hope is the IT staff on the campuses will have a better idea as to what is being planned and complete on their respective campuses.

Research and Planning Report

Mrs. Mitzy Johnson presented the Research and Planning report. The Data Quality Task Force has met with the Statewide Electronic Transcript group. She has been working with IHL and the GEAR UP project. She is also working on a graduation research project at one of the community colleges.

Finance Report

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert presented the Finance report and referred SBCJC members to the Finance agenda tab.

Attachment 1 is the approval request for the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for fund 4080 for \$2,871,341.00 and Fund 4110 for \$82,112.00, for a total amount of \$2,953,453.00, for March 31, 2009.

In a motion made by Mr. Ed Perry and seconded by Mr. Napoleon Moore, the SBCJC

Board **voted unanimously** to approve the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for fund 4080 for \$2,871,341.00 and Fund 4110 for \$82,112.00, for a total amount of \$2,953,453.00, for March 31, 2009.

Attachment 2 is an Update on the Education Enhancement Fund Reductions. This is for informational purposes only and does not require action.

Attachments 3a and 3b are the Financial Statements for Funds 2291 and Special Funds as of February 28, 2009. This is for informational purposes only and does not require approval.

Attachments 4a and 4b are the House and Senate Versions of Appropriations Bills, Senate Bill 3222-Administration and Senate Bill 3223, Community and Junior College Support. This is for informational purposes only and does not require approval.

Attachments 5a and 5b are the Purchasing Approvals for the Desire2Learn contract and the Infinite Group, Inc, contract. Desire2Learn provides software and services necessary for implementation of an Application Services Provider (ASP) solution for a learning management system for the MSVCC. Total Cost for Years 1, 2 and 3 is \$581,756.80. Infinite Group, Inc will conduct a current state assessment and provide recommendations for modernization of the computing environment for the network of community and junior colleges as a cost of \$23,000.00.

In a motion made by Mr. Ed Perry and seconded by Mrs. Patricia Dickens, the SBCJC Board **voted unanimously** to approve the three-year contract with Desire2Learn for a total cost \$581,756.80 and to approve the contract with Infinite Group, Inc., at a cost of \$23,000.00.

Mrs. Gilbert concluded the Finance Report.

Travel Authorizations

The Board Members in attendance for the March 19 and 20 Board Meetings request approval to be reimbursed for travel expenses. The Senate will be holding a confirmation hearing for Mr. Bubba Hudspeth on March 24, 2009. The Legislative Luncheon was held March 3, 2009. On April 15, 2009, some members will be traveling to Jackson to spend the night so they can attend the April 16, 2009 MEC Annual Meeting. Those Board Members wanting to attend either event request approval to be reimbursed for travel expenses.

In a motion made by Mr. Bubba Hudspeth and seconded by Mrs. Patricia Dickens, the SBCJC board **voted unanimously** to approve the travel expenses for the March 19 and 20 Board Meetings, as well as the travel expenses incurred if attending the Senate Confirmation Hearing for Mr. Bubba Hudspeth and the travel required on April 15 for the MEC Annual meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Walker reminded Board Members that their Statement of Economic Interest is due to the State Ethics Commission by May 1, 2009.

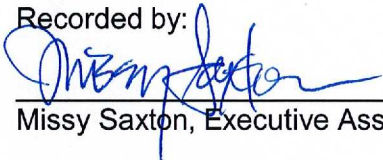
SBCJC Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 20, 2009

Mr. George Walker reminded Board Members that election of Board Officers will be held at the April meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Mr. Walker adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Recorded by:


Missy Saxton, Executive Assistant

Approved by:


Mr. George Walker, Chairman


Dr. Eric Clark, Executive Director

Exhibits:

Career and Technical Education
Workforce
Grants
Programs
ARRA Potential Impact Worksheet
Dr. Clark's Handouts

Exhibits A1-A4
Exhibits B1-B2
Exhibits C1-C3
Exhibits D1-D2
Exhibit E